

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

May 12, 1999

LB 485, 556

page 1540.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Lynch, you're recognized on AM124 to LB 556.

SENATOR LYNCH: I'm sorry, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members. This amendment, and don't worry, I can talk...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: (Gavel.)

SENATOR LYNCH: I can...I'll try talking, don't worry about the noise too much. It...what this amendment provides is the alphanumeric license plate system. It was a bill, LB 485. With the permission of the chairman of the committee and the introducer and the bill that we're now considering, Senator Kristensen's 556, they agreed that we could include this as an amendment. I'll take just a minute or two to introduce the issue so you'll understand. Interesting that according to Department of Motor Vehicles, when new license plates are issued an entire set of plates is produced and delivered to the county. The set consists of the same numbers of plates as issued during the previous issue period. The county is responsible for storing the plates until issued during the year, and 2...3 percent of the plates are never issued at all. It is expensive for counties to store an increasing number of plates. The use of alphanumeric plates does not require an entire set of previously issued numbers to be issued to the counties at one time. Alphanumeric plates would allow for a smaller number of plates to be issued, resulting in less storage and less cost. Counties with larger populations are running low on numbers, and under the county number system the alphanumeric system would provide an almost infinite number of plate combinations. I noticed in Douglas County, the other day, actually the other month, about a month ago, a license plate that was 1-Z9898; there's only two to go after that. According to Department of Motor Vehicles there are about two and a half million vehicles registered in Nebraska, about one and a half of those are registered in Douglas County, 1.2 million to be exact in Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy Counties, the only three counties that would be mandated to provide this kind of system for license plates. Because of a request by Senator Hudkins and others, farm vehicles and farm trailers are exempt from the